

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION

Vermillion County EOC

February 19, 2003

5:00 p.m.

CAC members present -

Patrick Ralston

Richard Setliff

Cleytus Malone

Ray Colombo

Charles Strobel

Larry Bemis

Mr. Ralston called the meeting to order.

Roll Call - Quorum was present.

Remarks of co chairman - Mr. Ralston

Working very hard to distribute \$2 million worth of first responder equipment State wide. Since is Indiana is an OSHA state, in order to receive this equipment responders must be trained to the operations level. Approximately 60,000 first responders have received this type of training. Next year will be very busy keeping up with the federal dollars being spent properly and getting those dollars to the counties and larger cities. Getting ready to hire more people in the training and planning area.

Introductions

Kevin Flamm, PMCD

Pat Haas, NECD

Lt. Col. Joseph Marquart, NECD

Tom Trebonik, Perma-fix

Tom Burch, CAIN

John Stewart, NECDF

Bob Lintelman, NECDF

Jay Kinsley, FEMA Region V

Kathy Haraburda, citizen

Scott Haraburda, U. S. Army

Dennis Lindsey, NECD

Scott Rowden, NECDF

Tom Linson, IDEM

Steve Davis, IDEM

Glen Shonkwiler, U.S. Army

Jim Harris, NECDF

Jim Mars, NECDF
Richard Lee, HQ, JMC Rock Island, IL
Susan Gilman, Outreach Office
Darla Eslinger, Parke County
Sharon Smith, Outreach Office
Terry Arthur, NECD
Ginger Corado, Parsons
Dave Crose, SEMA
Jerry Sears, SEMA
Joe Whitaker, Fountain County
Tim Wilson, Vermillion County Commissioner
Pat Pastore, Tribune Star
Vicki Francis, Vermillion County
Faye Coomer, Parke County
Jack Silotto, Vermillion County Council
John Cheesewright, Vermillion County
Jim Seibold, citizen
Leonard Akers, RAB member
Joseph Osborn, VA Local 157
Jim Goodall, Parsons
Bobette Noggle, Vermillion County
Bob Kasper, NECDF
Charlene Thomas, citizen
Sara Morgan, CAIN
Charlotte Russell, CAIN
Paul Curry, Vermillion County
Mary Silotto, Vermillion County
Larry Fossi, Vermillion County

Approval of November 2002 and August 2002 minutes - Motion to approve by Ray Colombo with a second by Richard Setliff. Both sets of minutes were approved as written.

Mr. Setliff remarked that a lot of people feel much more secure now that more precautions have been taken and the VX has been moved to a safer storage place.

CSEPP update - Rick Card

Indiana has received a grant from Federal Emergency Management Agency to upgrade the 800 Mhz radio system. This upgrade will help Indiana State Police, Emergency Management and all first responders. They are trying to improve radio communication with responders.

Mr. Ralston thanked elected officials who are in attendance evening. Thanked Joe Osborn for being here.

Lt. Col. Marquart - not a lot of activity at the Depot but for a lot of snow removal. The Colonel thanked the local community for their great support of the troops. They are doing

a great deal of work dismantling the former production facility. The Tennessee Valley Authority is making great strides in disassembling, and in a very deliberate manner, the production facility. This is on schedule for about 2006 when it will cease to exist. The Depot has been under constant observation since August 16 by the Organization for the Proliferation of Chemical Weapons. They are checking to see if they are in compliance with the dismantling project.

Patrick Haas - Getting ready for operations. Presented a powerpoint slide show of the construction at the Depot.

Accomplishments -

- the laboratory facility is up and running.
- Installed the CHAT area. Design is complete.
- Craft labor for construction is reducing and at the same time construction is being completed.
- High voltage substation has been energized and systemized.
- Infrastructure for all of the reconfiguration underground for sanitary/storm and water has all been refigured.
- Construction is drawing down and systemization is drawing up.
- Subcontract has been awarded to Perma-fix. Tom Tribomic is their representative.
- International treaty inspection occurred about two weeks ago. They looked at the process drawings both from a design standpoint and construction. They also visited the post treatment facility Perma-fix.
- Construction is about 60% complete. Anticipate construction to be completed in July.
- Focusing a lot on training. 70,000 man hours of training will be completed before going operational.
- The Newport team is committed to a safe construction, safe operation both to the public, to the environment and the workers.

Kevin Flamm - Tremendous progress is being made to eliminate the threat of the stockpile at Newport. Some new developments in Washington, D.C. effective yesterday were Secretary White has returned the chem demil program back to the Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technologies, Mr. Carl Bolton. About a year ago, Secretary White transferred the program to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installation and Environment, Dr. Fiori. He has decided to return it back to the acquisition side of the house. Effective yesterday, they will be reporting to Mr. Bolton as opposed to Dr. Fiori. Dr. Fiori will still have oversight from the environmental safety standpoint but in terms of the actual execution of the program, Mr. Bolton will be driving this. The Army has a new organization called the Chemical Material Organization. This is taking the storage aspect of the chemical weapons storage responsibility and merging it with the destruction program. So they now have the entire chemical weapons disposal destruction effort from cradle to grave all under one house. The leader of this organization is now Mike Parker. He was the deputy director for the Soldiers Biological Chemical Command. Mr. Parker was also the project manager for the ACWA program.

Floor open for questions

Mrs. Morgan - CAIN has major concerns about the continued proposed transportation issue. At the November CAC meeting and at the follow up meeting in Newport, CAIN stated they learned that SCWO is viable and there is no need to ship off site. They did ask for specific information about costs and she did receive some very general information.

Mr. Akers stated he was also opposed to transporting off site. Mr. Akers said he was slightly disappointed with Senator Bayh and the Army for breaching the agreement they had with the people of the Wabash Valley. Everyone agreed on a specific method of storing the agent. After one press release back in January, the direction of the process changed without any consent or dialogue or any meetings with the public. He thinks this was unfair. He personally has seen the CHATS, and he is not comfortable with them. He hopes he is wrong but he really fears someone will get hurt killed. Mr. Ralston suggested Mr. Akers also meet with Mrs. Morgan at the conclusion of the CAC meeting. Mr. Ralston said September 11 changed the thought process for a lot of people around Newport and that had also been his discussion with Senator Bayh. To rid the community of the threat the sooner the better was the thinking of Senator Bayh. Mr. Akers said he just didn't want to be reckless with the speeding up of the process.

Mr. Flamm stated that the process to be used at Newport is going to be safe both to workers and the public. That will not be compromised. They are looking at restructuring and reapproaching how they are doing the draining operation. This will not be started until everyone is satisfied it is a safe operation. With respect to the concerns with the disposal of the hydrolysate, this was not a spur of the moment decision. Mr. Flamm was at Newport in June 2001 and broached the subject with everyone saying there were technology challenges with SCWO in terms of reliability and availability of process. They are looking at off post shipment as well as putting a tank on site. Mr. Flamm said the public was informed of this and public comment was received at that time. The whole issue of off post shipment has not been a spur of the moment decision. They have been carefully looking at this along with Parsons for over a year, looking at options for SCWO if it was deemed necessary. With respect to Bluegrass, SCWO is being used there but the volume of VX at Bluegrass is smaller than the Newport site. The NRC reports have been very skeptical about the implementation of SCWO at Newport for this reason. Can SCWO keep up with the destruction process? They also have to address other issues, i.e. explosives, energetics, weapons. At Newport they only have to worry about VX. So the neutralization/off post shipment process is a very viable approach to be used at Newport. Mr. Akers said this may not be VX any longer but it is still a hazardous waste and it is not just a cup of drano but 900,000 gallons of drano and 320 miles of highway. What kind of guarantee is there that someone won't try to hijack the trucks? Mr. Flamm said they would not provide armed guards during the transport because it is strictly commercial hazardous waste at this point. There are more hazardous material being moved across the highways and rails routinely. It is already a highly regulated controlled environment. They will be working within this environment. Mr. Akers said they couldn't control what private industry ships but he thought they should have some control over what the government ships. Mr. Ralston remarked that the State of Indiana has been working with the Department of Energy on the shipment of radioactive low level waste

thru Indiana and training has been provided to those counties where the shipments will pass through. The trucks can be monitored in the State EOC as they travel. This is across the midwest.

Mrs. Morgan deferred asking her written questions until after the meeting so as not to keep everyone waiting. She did submit for the record the following statement -

Statement in Support of the Safe, On-Site Disposal of Chemical Weapons and Secondary Wastes from Sara Morgan -

"The U. S./ stockpile of obsolete chemical weapons poses a threat to public health, the environment, and national security. We support efforts to rid our communities and our nation of these lethal weapons.

Destruction of these chemical weapons should occur using a technology that protects workers; prevents the uncontrolled release of chemical agents and other toxics into the environment; is acceptable by the local community; and meets or exceeds the highest performance standards.

Incineration does not meet these criteria and is therefore an unacceptable technology for chemical weapons disposal.

However, we support non-incineration technologies, such as those deployed through the Army's Alternative Technologies and Approaches Program and the Department of Defense's Assembled Chemical Weapons assessment. These technologies, some of which have already been permitted, fulfill the criteria listed above.

Because it is impossible to truly destroy matter, we acknowledge that the chemical weapons disposal process will result in waste which will unavoidably be landfilled. Our goal is to urge the Army and its contractors to reuse and recycle materials whenever possible, and ensure that other wastes be reduced as far as possible to the lowest quantity, and the lowest toxicity, in order to minimize the impact to public health and the environment.

As organizations representing citizens in communities where chemical weapons are stored pending disposal, as well as citizens in communities which have been targeted to receive secondary wastes from chemical stockpile disposal facilities, we support the safe, on-site disposal of chemical weapons and secondary wastes with non-incineration technology. We do so based on the following:

1. The framework for on-site chemical weapons waste disposal was set by the Chemical Weapons Working Group, in its 1991 International Citizens Accords. The Accords state, in part, that "If, as a last resort, transportation of chemical weapons must be undertaken, it should be only for final treatment and/or disposal, after necessary stabilization, with the consent of affected communities."

2. A majority of hazardous waste disposal facilities, particularly those which burn, deep-well inject, or landfill such wastes, are located in communities where the population is mostly poor and/or non-white. These communities are already disproportionately impacted by toxic chemical responsible for increased incidences of cancer, reproductive disorders, birth defects, immune system dysfunction, and many other acute and chronic illnesses.
3. The off-site shipment of wastes to such facilities violates the Principles of Environmental Justice, which state that all peoples, regardless of race and income, deserve equal protection of public health.
4. The U. S. Department of Defense has approved several non-incineration technologies for disposal of chemical agent "neutralent" and other secondary wastes. These technologies were designed to be used as on-site follow-up treatment to chemical agent neutralization processes. There is no need for transporting secondary wastes to incinerators, nor "waste-to-energy" combustion facilities, nor deep well injection, nor any other such technology.

In the instance of off-site secondary waste treatment in a non-incineration facility, the recipient community and communities along transportation routes must be fully informed of this option by the Army and its contractor, before any final decisions have been made. Those communities have every right to reject such shipments, based on factors such as environmental racism, poor technology performance, avoidable risks to human health or the environment, adverse impacts on affected communities, and/or lack of government of corporate accountability.

—Approved by consensus of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, February 17, 2003.

Outreach Office - Susan Gilman

Activities include -

- Presentation to the Panhandler Eastern employees
- Commander spoke to the Indiana Task Force on Newport project and gave a history of Depot
- Continue to send out report card mailers. Received almost 100 back
- Distributed the Reach newsletter
- Held a public meeting September 1 for permit modification
- Public meeting in Dayton for Permafix
- National Guard unit participated in local parade

Old Business - none

New Business - none

Public comment - none

Next meeting date April 16 at 5:00 p.m. at the Vermillion County Emergency Response.

Mr. Akers requested a tape of the minutes. CAC Secretary will provide.

Mr. Colombo made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Setliff seconded.